

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Another Day; Another Academic Shooting

The New York Times

M.I.T. Professor Is Fatally Shot in His Home

The professor, Nuno F.G. Loureiro, was pronounced dead at a hospital on Tuesday morning. The authorities said they had opened a homicide investigation.

Listen to this article - 2:57 min [Learn more](#) [Share full article](#)



The professor, Nuno F.G. Loureiro, was the director of M.I.T.'s Plasma Science and Fusion Center. Scott Eisen/Getty Images

The authorities said on Tuesday that they had opened a homicide investigation after a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was fatally shot at his home in Brookline, Mass. The professor, Nuno F.G. Loureiro, 47, was a member of the departments of nuclear science and engineering and physics, as well as the director of M.I.T.'s Plasma Science and Fusion Center, the school said...

"This is an active and ongoing homicide investigation," the District Attorney's Office said in a statement. An office spokesman, David Linton, said on Tuesday that there had not been any arrests in the case...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/16/us/mit-professor-shot-brookline-nuno-loureiro.html>.

No arrests at this time in the Brown U case, either.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 1:08 PM No comments: 

Labels: [Brown University](#), [MIT](#)

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Topics

[I never promise you a Rose Bowl? - Part 5](#)



From [Pasadena Now](#): UCLA did not assert the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) or the City violated the stadium's long-term lease agreement before the university began exploring a move to SoFi Stadium, according to a court document filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court. According to the lease, UCLA can terminate the agreement early only if a "Game Threatening Default" occurs, defined as an immediate condition preventing the team from playing at the stadium. The lease prevents UCLA from playing home games in another stadium in Los Angeles or Orange counties. The City has filed a lawsuit to compel the university to honor its contract,

Under the contract, a breach notice from UCLA could have provided Pasadena an opportunity to cure any alleged deficiencies or to address operational concerns. The filing, submitted as part of Pasadena's lawsuit against the Regents of the University of California, offers a detailed account of early 2025 communications that raised concern about UCLA's intentions, but also makes clear that at no point did the university allege any contractual default by the City or the stadium. "At no time has UCLA ever asserted that any 'Game-Threatening Default' exists [or any default by the RBOC or the City for that matter] under the Agreement or otherwise." according to statements made by Rose Bowl General Manager Jens Weiden in court documents...

Full story at <https://pasadenanow.com/main/ucla-did-not-claim-breach-by-city-before-exploring-move-to-sofi-stadium>.

Do you have a sense that the money it will take to settle this matter will be a large sum? Yours truly does.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [athletics](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 193

From the [Washington Post](#): The Trump administration... said it has reached an agreement with seven states to resolve a lawsuit challenging the legality of former president Joe Biden's student loan repayment plan, a deal that could leave millions of borrowers scrambling to find another option to repay their debt. The proposal marks a key moment in the political battle over how to address staggering student loan debt, with liberals saying they want to ease the financial burden for borrowers and conservatives calling that effort fiscally irresponsible and patently unfair to Americans who never went to college. The fight has spawned one lawsuit after another and thrown the entire student loan repayment system into chaos. About 7 million people are now enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education program, commonly known as Save, which offers lower monthly payments and a faster path to loan cancellation. They will have a limited time to find a new plan if the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri approves the proposed settlement, the Education Department said...



The settlement stems from a lawsuit brought by Missouri, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Dakota, Ohio and Oklahoma to overturn Save. Under the agreement, the Education Department must cease enrolling anyone in the Save plan, deny any pending applications and move current enrollees out of the program. The department will convene a panel of experts for a negotiated rulemaking to repeal the Save regulation, which was already part of the tax plan. The settlement calls on the department to notify the Missouri attorney general's office at least 30 days before

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canceling more than \$10 billion in federal student loans. That provision will expire 10 years after the date of the settlement agreement.

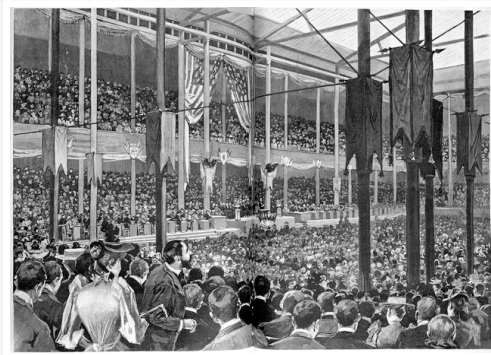
Conservatives and some moderate Democrats have argued that widespread debt cancellation disproportionately benefits students who attend expensive elite colleges and unfairly subsidizes higher education. Graduates of elite schools, however, make up a small share of students with education debt...

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2025/12/09/trump-ends-biden-save-student-loan-plan/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments: 

Labels: [politics](#), [tuition](#)

Call for Nominations



Nomination Portal Open for Emeriti Awards

Emeriti are encouraged to nominate colleagues or themselves for three different emeriti awards

Nominating Procedures for Awards: Departments are limited to one nomination each year for each award. Department chairs or their designees are asked to submit nominations. Individuals also may nominate colleagues for these awards, but must coordinate with

the department chair to submit nominations. For awards, nominations must include a cover letter, a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae and two supporting letters from leaders in the field commenting specifically on the nominee's achievements performed exclusively after retirement.

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Constantine Panunzio Award

The Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award created by a bequest from Professor Panunzio of UCLA, the award honors outstanding scholarly work or educational service (e.g. service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts, or committees) performed since retirement by a University of California emeritus or emerita in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

Deadline for final nomination from each campus are due by Monday, February 9, 2026:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/panunzio2026>

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Dickson Emeritus Professorships

The Dickson Award was created by a gift endowment from the late Edward A. Dickson, a Regent of the University of California from 1913 to 1946. The award honors outstanding research, scholarly work, teaching, and/or educational service (e.g. service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts, or committees) performed by an emeritus/emera professor performed exclusively after retirement. Each of the UC campuses has received funds that will support one or more awards each year.

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Carole Goldberg Emeriti Service Award

The Goldberg Award was created in 2014 to recognize extraordinary service by an emeritus/emera professor to the academic enterprise performed exclusively after retirement. The award honors outstanding service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts, or committees performed at UCLA by an emeritus/emera professor since retirement.

===

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For Dickson and/or Goldberg nominations:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/emeritiawards26>

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [uc retirement](#)

P is for Publication



Rather than just throw this email invitation into the Void, maybe I can just report that I Went this morning and was Flushed with success.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [miscellaneous](#)

Monday, December 15, 2025

I never promised you a Rose Bowl? - Part 4



From [Pasadena Now](#): Pasadena officials warned that UCLA's planned departure from the Rose Bowl could jeopardize the city's ability to repay hundreds of millions of dollars in stadium bond debt and force cuts to basic public services, according to newly detailed claims in the city's lawsuit against the university and SoFi Stadium operators. In the 214-page complaint, the city and the Rose Bowl Operating Company say they structured nearly \$200 million in stadium renovation bonds around the guaranteed revenue from UCLA home football games, with debt payments reimbursed through stadium income rather than taxpayer funds.

City officials now say the loss of UCLA games could push those bond payments back onto Pasadena's general fund — which also supports police, fire, libraries, housing, parks and post-disaster recovery tied to last year's Eaton Fire...

Full story at <https://pasadenanow.com/main/city-says-ucla-move-from-rose-bowl-would-threaten-stadium-debt-city-services>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [athletics](#), [politics](#), [UCLA](#)

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From the [NY Times](#): Secretary of State Marco Rubio waded into the surprisingly fraught politics of typefaces [last] Tuesday with an order halting the State Department's official use of Calibri, reversing a 2023 Biden-era directive that Mr. Rubio called a "wasteful" sop to diversity. While mostly framed as a matter of clarity and formality in presentation, Mr. Rubio's directive to all diplomatic posts around the world blamed "radical" diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility programs for what he said was a misguided and ineffective switch from the serif typeface Times New Roman to sans serif Calibri in official department paperwork.



In an "Action Request" memo obtained by The New York Times, Mr. Rubio said that switching back to the use of Times New Roman would "restore decorum and professionalism to the department's written work." Calibri is "informal" when compared to serif typefaces like Times New Roman, the order said, and "clashes" with the department's official letterhead...

Mr. Rubio's directive, under the subject line "Return to Tradition: Times New Roman 14-Point Font Required for All Department Paper," served as the latest attempt by the Trump administration to stamp out remnants of diversity initiatives across the federal government. Then-Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken ordered the 2023 typeface shift on the recommendation of the State Department's office of diversity and inclusion, which Mr. Rubio has since abolished. The change was meant to improve accessibility for readers with disabilities, such as low vision and dyslexia, and people who use assistive technologies, such as screen readers.

Times New Roman Calibri

Calibri, sometimes described as soft and modern, is typically considered more accessible for people with reading challenges thanks to its

simpler shapes and wider spacing, which make its letters easier to distinguish. Mr. Blinken's move was applauded by accessibility advocates. But Mr. Rubio's order rejected the grounds for the switch. The change, he allowed, "was not among the department's most illegal, immoral, radical or wasteful instances of D.E.I.A.," the acronym for diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. But Mr. Rubio called it a failure by its own standards, saying that "accessibility-based document remediation cases" at the department had not declined...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/09/us/politics/rubio-state-department-font.html>.

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From [Inside Higher Ed](#): Augsburg University administrators and federal officials are giving conflicting accounts about what happened when Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested an undocumented student on the private campus... ICE agents in an unmarked car followed Jesus Saucedo-Portillo into a parking lot on the Minneapolis campus and attempted to detain him. Campus security and residence hall officials observed the situation and tried to intervene. Soon, more agents arrived, "pointing weapons at the crowd and pushing witnesses back" as students began recording the incident, according to a campuswide email Provost Paula O'Loughlin wrote...: "I want to emphasize that the staff and other Augsburg community members who were present followed our protocols."

According to the university, when a senior administrator asked to see a judicial warrant, agents said they didn't have one and eventually arrested Saucedo-Portillo. "It was done on private property, without a warrant," Paul Pribbenow, president of the university, told the Star Tribune. "From our perspective, that is illegal." ...

However, the Department of Homeland Security has since contested the university's claims that ICE agents didn't have an arrest warrant. In a statement..., Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary of public affairs for DHS, accused the university administrators on the scene of attempting "to obstruct the arrest." ...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/12/10/university-ice-clash-over-details-students-arrest>.

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Contributors

- [California Policy Issues](#)
- [Toby Higbie](#)
- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Augsburg U](#), [diversity](#), [politics](#)

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